Bill 40 Additional Testimony

CLK Council Info

Sent:

Tuesday, August 06, 2019 4:34 PM

Subject:

Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name

mio chee

Phone

8082222940

Email

mioono@hotmail.com

Meeting Date

08-07-2019

Council/PH

PublicSafety

Committee Agenda Item

......

Your position on the

Bill 40

matter

Support

Representing

Self

Organization

Do you wish to

speak at the hearing?

No

I support Bill 40 with reservations. I feel that this bill is not strong enough and below are the areas I would like to see changes in.

(1) I believe that the maximum thickness of the plastic film bag should no more than 3 mils.

Written Testimony

2) I believe that produce bags should also be banned in this bill. Many local stores (especially small stores and farmers market) use produce bags as a replacement for plastic checkout bags, an unfair loophole in the law.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read and consider my testimony.

Sincerely, Mio Chee

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and

Agreement

1

CLK Council Info

Sent:

Wednesday, August 07, 2019 12:30 AM

Subject:

Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name

Linda Wong

Phone

808-923-7484

Email

Leiahi@me.com

Meeting Date

08-07-2019

Council/PH Committee

Council

Agenda Item

Bill 40

Your position on the matter

Support

Representing

Self

Organization

Do you wish to speak at the

No

1

hearing?

It is imperative that we ban single use plastic and styrofoam.

Written Testimony

Look at the garbage dump of plastic in the ocean and consider the plastic in

the fish we eat!

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement

In SUPPORT of Bill 40: Relating to plastic

August 7th, 2019 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the council,

On behalf of the Sierra Club O'ahu Group and our 8,000 members and supporters, we are in **SUPPORT** of Bill 40, which seeks to address the provision of certain single-use plastic goods and plastic bags.

We are currently experiencing a plastic pollution epidemic here in Hawai'i. Single-use plastics pollute our lands and freshwater bodies, clog up drainage systems, harm wildlife and ultimately end up in our ocean waters where they break down into tiny particles called microplastics. Microplastics are not only toxic because of the chemicals from manufacturing, but also because of the persistent organic pollutants they absorb from the surrounding water. The toxins and heavy chemicals found in plastics are not compostable or biodegradable and can take 500 years or more to decompose.

Microplastics have been found in 114 aquatic species (many of which end up on our dinner plates), at all trophic levels, and recent studies have even found microplastics in human excrement. A new study in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology* says it's possible that humans may be consuming anywhere from 39,000 to 52,000 microplastic particles a year. Researchers from Johns Hopkins studied the impacts of eating seafood contaminated with microplastics and found that they could damage the immune system and upset the gut's balance.

Aside from toxic effects on human health, plastics contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately play a role in climate change. Greenhouse gases are generated and emitted throughout the life cycle of plastic, from extracting oil and natural gas, to manufacturing, to end of life processes such as dumping in landfills, recycling, or incineration.

With all of this information coming to light, many places are taking actionable steps to transition away from single-use plastics. More than 112 countries, regions, and cities across the world have agreed to curb the sale of certain single-use plastic items and the number is continuously growing.

We urge the committee to pass this measure so we can keep Hawai'i's land, freshwater bodies, and oceans free of plastic pollution as well as protect the health of our people. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of Bill 40**.

Mahalo, Lori Mallini Executive Committee member of Sierra Club of Hawai'i



Testimony to the Honolulu City Council Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. Conference Rooms A, B and C, Kapolei Hale

RE: HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL BILL 40, RELATING TO PLASTICS

Council Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Council:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") has concerns with Council Bill 40, which would address and amend the current Honolulu City Ordinance relating to single-use plastic goods and plastic bags.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber is concerned that the changes proposed in this bill to the existing bag ban and the provision regarding a ban of certain utensils would create unintended consequences for local businesses. While we support efforts to help create a more sustainable future, we must ensure that any transition to alternative materials allow local businesses the time and resources to transition in a way that does not create unnecessary hardships. Our members have expressed an interest in looking into alternative materials, but have found that materials available on the current market are insufficient or prohibitively expensive.

Additionally, Governor David Ige recently signed into law Act 254, which would create the plastic source reduction working group with the intent to make recommendations to reuse, reduce, recycle, and recover plastic waste. This working group will be made up of a number of representatives from state and local governments, business, and environmental organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to City Council Bill 40.

CLK Council Info

Sent:

Wednesday, August 07, 2019 7:50 AM

Subject:

Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name

Michelle Williams

Phone

808-394-8682

Email

michellewilliams@hotmail.com

Meeting Date

08-07-2019

Council/PH

Council

Committee

Council

Agenda Item

Bill 40 (2019)

Your position on

the matter

Support

Representing

Self

Organization

Do you wish to

speak at the

hearing?

No

Written

This is an incredibly important bill to continue the conversation around what is best for Hawaii, the 'aina, and our environment. Single-use plastics are incredibly wasteful and have no place in our islands. While costs may increase, this is the price we should all bear for

Testimony

protecting and preserving our environment.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and 1

CLK Council Info

Sent:

Wednesday, August 07, 2019 9:50 AM

Subject:

Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name

mackenzie manning

Phone

8087547920

Email

kenzmarie@gmail.com

Meeting Date

08-07-2019

Council/PH

Council

Committee

Counci

Agenda Item

Bill 40

Your position on

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the matter

Support

Representing

Self

Organization

Do you wish to

speak at the

hearing?

No

Written

Testimony

Please consider this bill to ban single use plastics on our island. The other islands have been successful and I know O'ahu can be as well. Not all petroleum based single use products end up getting to H-power and many find their way into the ocean, affecting wildlife. This is an easy way to reduce the plastic consumption problem and if other islands and states can do this, I know we can.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and

CLK Council Info

Sent:

Wednesday, August 07, 2019 12:25 PM

Subject:

Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name

John Witeck

Phone

8083473306

Email

jwiteck@yahoo.com

Meeting Date

08-07-2019

Council/PH

Council

Committee

Counci

Agenda Item

Bill 40

Your position on

the matter

Support

Representing

Self

Organization

Do you wish to

speak at the

No

hearing?

I strongly support these measures to restrict/ban single use plastic items, and I would

Written Testimony include Styrofoam, straws, plastic cups and plates and other single-use plastic items. Our roadways and ocean are getting too polluted by plastic and there is evidence that plastic is

now in many of the foods we eat. It is time to stop this plastic pollution of our island.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and 1

Subject:

FW: Public Infrastructure, Technology and Sustainability Speaker Registration/testimony

From: CLK Council Info

Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2019 5:02:09 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii

Cc: mirthfullady@yahoo.com;

Subject: Public Infrastructure, Technology and Sustainability Speaker Registration/testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name

Bonnie Fraser

Phone

8082002288

Email

mirthfullady@yahoo.com

Meeting Date

08-07-2019

Council/PH

PITS

Committee

Agenda Item

Bill 40

Your position on

the matter

Support

Representing

Self

Organization

Do you wish to

speak at the

No

hearing?

Written

Testimony

I support any decision to eliminate using plastics. Please save the planet. I would like to add to the list of banned items the plastic that keeps 6-packs held together. We all know how detrimental these are to wildlife when they escape into the wild where they either can be eaten by or can strangle animals. My soda and beer cans are not so rambunctious that they need plastic to wrangle them safely home. I do not mind buying them as singles or in a

cardboard box or in a bigger glass bottle.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and 1



Sunscreen, Straws and Subtlety: The Dangers of Oversimplifying a Complex Environmental Problem

OPINION: Global environmental challenges are overwhelming, but we must never lose sight of the bigger picture in our quest to make things better one step at a time.

By DAVID SHIFFMAN, PH.D. MAY 31, 2019

2 Comments

Sometimes, scientists have to be the villain.

When people unite behind widespread "save the ocean" movements such as plastic-straw and sunscreen bans, it might seem like an undeniable win for the important goal of saving the ocean.



But, here I am, your friendly neighborhood marine conservation biologist, willing to take the role of wet blanket and say: Not only are these sweeping policies partially misguided, but they also could be a net negative for our beloved ocean ecosystem—and for people.

Hear me out-sometimes a problem is so large and overwhelming that the only way to wrap our brains around it is to focus on one bite-size chunk at a time. This can be an effective strategy for public engagement and education, especially if the goal is using a small, easily visualized part of the problem as a hook to get people to learn about and try to fix the rest of the problem.

However, when that small chunk of the problem is wrongly treated as the biggest threat or the only threat, well-intentioned activists can do more harm than good.

Overwhelming activist and media focus on a small part of the problem leads to confused and misinformed citizens, research funding getting reprioritized so it can't be used on the bigger issues, and suboptimal policy outcomes.

Take plastic-straw bans, for example. It's nearly impossible for us to visualize the scale of an ocean plastic pollution crisis that involves more than 150 million tons of plastic pollution from a variety of sources all over the world. However, supporters of recent laws that seek to ban single-use plastic straws claim that straws are a major source of ocean plastic pollution, and that starting with straws is a useful first step in our quest to solve the plastic-pollution crisis. While there's no doubt that lots of plastic straws end up in the ocean where they can harm wildlife, other single-use plastic items like food wrappers and beverage bottles are a much larger contributor to the ocean plastic pollution crisis in both number of items and total mass. These other sources of plastic poliution have not attracted anywhere near the same level of zeal from activists—and that's not even getting into microplastics, the sources of which get complicated really quickly. (Incidentally, you're probably visualizing what the ocean plastic pollution problem really looks like incorrectly, but more on that in another column.)

Supporters of straw bans also claim that these laws help the ocean while hurting no one; they claim anyone who really wants a straw can use a substitute made from less environmentally harmful materials like paper or metal, and that no one needs a plastic straw. If you're one of the millions of people who suffer from neuromuscular disorders like multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy or lots of similar conditions, you absolutely need a plastic straw in order to drink or even to eat, and the available substitutes just don't do the same thing.

Similarly, recent efforts to ban sunscreens that are supposedly harmful to corals risk not only falling to see the forest for the trees, but letting the forest burn down while focusing on a twig.

Reviewing the scientific evidence behind claims that certain types of sunscreen harm wild corals won't take long...because there just isn't very much! Extremely high concentrations of sunscreen chemicals are harmful to the larvae of one species of coral, but that doesn't mean that sunscreen washing off your skin when you go swimming is the reason for global coral bleaching.

Coral reefs face many threats, but the largest by far is climate change—if we totally fix climate change, most corals will be in pretty good shape no matter what sunscreen you wear, and if we ban all "harmful" sunscreen worldwide, many corals are still doomed because of climate change.

These bans are at best a distraction from the real problem, and at worst are endangering human health (because sunscreen does help protect us from harmful solar radiation) in the name of a misunderstanding of threats to coral reefs.

It's natural for people who want to help the environment to want to just do something. However, what we do matters! Doing something that makes the problem worse (or doing something that doesn't solve the problem while making it harder for others to solve the problem later) is objectively worse than doing nothing. To solve the ocean plastic pollution problem, scientific experts agree that need to stop plastic at its source, by preventing it from entering waterways, and by changing manufacturing processes that result in plastic waste—what we don't need is a ban on a relatively minor part of the problem that would make life harder for the most vulnerable members of our society. To save coral reefs, we need to significantly and rapidly reduce CO2 emissions planetwide, we don't need to endanger human health by banning sunscreens. When choosing what you do to help, I urge you to consider listening to expert scientists and expert environmental advocates rather than following a fad that sounds great but isn't based on facts.

About David Shiffman

Dr. David Shiffman is a marine conservation biologist specializing in the ecology and conservation of sharks. An award-winning public science educator, David has spoken to thousands of people around the world about marine biology and conservation, and has bylines with the Washington Post, Scientific American, New Scientist, Gizmodo and more. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @WhySharksMatter, where he's always happy to answer any questions about sharks. Please direct any questions or hate mail to WhySharksMatter@gmail.com.

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About Science Stop with Dr. David Shiffman

Before you surface from a deep scuba dive, you make a safety stop. Before you take a deep dive into the complicated world of ocean conservation, I encourage you to make a science stop by reading this column. The global environmental challenges we face can seem overwhelming, and concerned citizens, especially people like scuba divers who love spending time in the ocean, want to help do their part to fix these problems. However, with lots of conflicting, misleading or just plain wrong information out there about environmental problems and how you can help solve them, it can be hard to know how to help. In some cases, well-intentioned but misinformed activists not only fail to help solve a problem, but can actually make the problem worse, or harder to solve! Put simply, if we're going to fix the massive problems facing the ocean, the details matter, and those details can be confusing! In this monthly column, my goal is to teach you the true scientific facts behind some of the most pressing threats facing the ocean and the solutions experts believe will help solve them. I will also try to dispel common misconceptions about these threats and their solutions.

Gear			
Videos			

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DAVID Y. IGE

July 5, 2019

GOV. MSG. NO. 1356

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 5, 2019, the following bill was signed into law:

SB522 SD2 HD2 CD1

RELATING TO PLASTIC. ACT 254 (19)

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE

Governor, State of Hawai'i

ACT 254
S.B. NO. S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PLASTIC.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the local and global
- 2 impact of the world's increasing waste stream is unsustainable
- 3 and detrimental to the future of Hawaii's economy and people.
- 4 There has been an exponential rise in single-use foodware items
- 5 over the past few decades globally, with particularly high
- 6 increases in plastics derived from fossils fuels. Single-use
- 7 disposable foodware and packaging including plastic bottles,
- 8 caps, lids, straws, cups, and polystyrene and plastic containers
- 9 are major contributors to street and beach litter, ocean
- 10 pollution, marine and other wildlife harm, and greenhouse gas
- 11 emissions.
- 12 According to the United Nations, since the 1950s, the
- 13 production of plastic has outpaced that of almost every other
- 14 material. Much of the plastic produced is designed to be thrown
- 15 away after being used only once. As a result, plastic packaging
- 16 accounts for about half of the plastic waste in the world. Most
- 17 of this waste is generated in Asia, while America, Japan, and
- the European Union are the world's largest producers of plastic 2019-3085 SB522 CD1 SMA-5.doc

- 1 packaging waste per capita. The world's ability to cope with
- 2 plastic waste is already overwhelmed as seen by the closing of
- 3 recycling markets in China and Thailand. Even when recycling
- 4 markets were open, only nine per cent of the 9,000,000,000 tons
- 5 of plastic produced has been recycled. Most plastic ends up in
- 6 landfills, dumps, incinerators, or in the environment. If the
- 7 growth in plastic production continues at its current rate, then
- 8 by 2050, the plastics industry will likely account for twenty
- 9 per cent of the world's total oil consumption.
- 10 Hawaii has a goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 and embraces
- 11 the United Nations sustainable development goals, including
- 12 achieving sustainable management and the efficient use of
- 13 natural resources, sound waste management, encouraging corporate
- 14 sustainability practices, strengthening the State's resilience
- 15 and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural
- 16 disasters, sustainably managing and protecting our marine and
- 17 coastal ecosystems, and reducing pollution. Decreasing the
- 18 import and use of fossil fuel-based products like single-use
- 19 plastics should become part of a movement toward reaching those
- 20 goals. For every one ton of waste seen at the end of life,
- 21 seventy tons were created upstream in the extraction,

S.B. NO. 522 S.D. 2 H.D. 2 C.D. 1

- 1 production, and transportation sectors. Alternatives to
- 2 plastics already exist for many take-out items and an industry
- 3 of innovative change for packaging is advancing globally. Zero
- 4 waste plastic reduction plans are moving forward all over the
- 5 world, including within the European Union, Ethiopia, Costa
- 6 Rica, and municipalities across the United States. The
- 7 legislature finds that given the current trend, if Hawaii
- 8 businesses are at the forefront of this movement, they will be
- 9 less burdened by change.
- 10 Locally, plastic litter and debris can be increasingly
- 11 found on every island and in every watershed and protected area
- 12 from the remote Kalalau valley on Kauai to Kilauea caldera on
- 13 Hawaii island. Hawaii's forests, streams, and beaches are
- 14 strewn with plastic debris, including micro plastic debris
- 15 smaller than grains of sand, which are consumed by the smallest
- 16 of endangered birds to the humpback whale. Among other hazards,
- 17 plastic debris attracts and concentrates ambient pollutants in
- 18 seawater and freshwater, which can transfer to fish, other
- 19 seafood, and salt that is eventually sold for human consumption.
- 20 Globally, ninety-five per cent of plastic packaging is discarded

- 1 after a single use, at a cost of \$80,000,000,000 to
- 2 \$120,000,000,000.
- 3 The legislature further finds that cleaning up plastic is a
- 4 significant cost to Hawaii taxpayers. The cost of increasing
- 5 cleanups by government agencies, businesses, and the general
- 6 public is rising to account for expensive best management
- 7 practices and mitigation. A study of over ninety counties in
- 8 California recently concluded that taxpayers are paying
- 9 \$428,000,000 per year to clean up plastic through storm drain
- 10 management, street sweeping, and marine cleanups. San Diego
- 11 county, which has an equivalent population to Hawaii at
- 12 1,300,000 people, spends \$14,000,000 annually cleaning up
- 13 plastic. In January 2019, San Diego county passed legislation
- 14 to phase out polystyrene foam and other single-use plastics.
- 15 The Hawaii department of transportation has produced a trash
- 16 management plan that shows that polystyrene foam and plastic
- 17 bags are the top two contributors to the waste stream and must
- 18 be regularly removed from storm drains at a cost to the
- 19 department.
- 20 Major news and research publications like National
- 21 Geographic and 60 Minutes are reporting on plastic pollution as

- 1 one of the pressing environmental issues currently facing the
- 2 world. Minimizing packaging and utilizing alternatives derived
- 3 from compostable materials, which are now widely available, can
- 4 benefit the State's economy as it shifts toward a system of
- 5 responsible conservation, recycling, recovery, and reuse, which
- 6 is a foundational principle of Native Hawaiian culture.
- 7 Additionally, the State's economy can become a leader in
- 8 reducing and recovering plastic waste by collaboratively working
- 9 with businesses, as well as researching and implementing
- 10 feasible and innovative solutions for all packaging coming into
- 11 the State of Hawaii.
- 12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
- 13 of health for administrative purposes a plastic source reduction
- 14 working group.
- 15 (b) The working group shall:
- 16 (1) Formulate a plan for reducing and recovering plastic
- from the Hawaii waste stream;
- 18 (2) Develop strategies to encourage plastic reduction and
- reuse in the food service industry, such as reusable
- 20 container incentive programs for customers;

1	6803 (3)	Provide recommendations to encourage reuse, reduction
2		recycling, and recovery of waste and create value
3		added products to innovate and responsibly manage the
4		life cycle of existing resources;
5	(4)	Consult with each county that has already enacted
6		ordinances related to single-use plastics such as
7		plastic bags and polystyrene foam containers and
8	14	develop recommendations for the implementation of a
9		uniform, statewide policy for these items that can
10		replace existing county ordinances and provide
11		businesses with laws that are consistent throughout
12		the State;
13	(5)	Consult with stakeholders to develop appropriate
14		exemptions to address concerns of health and safety,
15		lack of suitable alternative products on the market,
16		and lack of infrastructure; and
17	(6)	Evaluate potential life-cycle and environmental
18		implications of replacing plastic packaging with
19		alternative products.
20	(c)	The membership of the working group shall be as
21	follows:	*

S.B. NO. 522 S.D. 2 H.D. 2 C.D. 1

1	(1)	The director of health or the director's designee;
2	(2)	The chairperson of the board of land and natural
3		resources or the chairperson's designee;
4	(3)	The president and chief executive officer of the
5	39	Hawaii tourism authority or the president and chief
6		executive officer's designee;
7	(4)	Four members, one to be appointed by each of the
8		respective mayors of the city and county of Honolulu
9		and the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;
10	(5)	The state sustainability coordinator;
11	(6)	A representative of the Surfrider Foundation;
12	(7)	A representative of Zero Waste Oahu;
13	(8)	A representative of Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii;
14	(9)	A representative of the Hawaii Food Industry
15		Association;
16	(10)	A representative of the Hawaii Restaurant Association;
17	(11)	A representative of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii;
18	(12)	A representative of the beverage industry;
19	(13)	A representative from the plastic manufacturing
20		industry; and
21	(14)	A representative of the recycling industry.

1 The 1	representatives	in	paragraphs	(6)	through (11)	shall	bē
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- 2 selected by the director of health.
- 3 (d) The members of the working group shall serve without
- 4 compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses,
- 5 including travel expenses, consulting fees, and administrative
- 6 expenses such as photocopying, postage, stationery, and office
- 7 supplies incidental to the performance of their duties.
- 8 (e) The working group shall work with the department of
- 9 health, the carbon sequestration task force, private
- 10 stakeholders, public stakeholders, or any other group or
- 11 individuals the working group deems necessary.
- 12 (f) The working group shall submit a report of its
- 13 findings and recommendations, including recommendations for
- 14 pilot projects for Hawaii businesses to phase out single-use
- 15 plastic packaging, promote reuse, and find sustainable
- 16 alternatives for packaging, as well as any proposed legislation,
- 17 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
- 18 convening of the regular session of 2021.
- 19 SECTION 3. The working group shall cease to exist on
- 20 June 30, 2022.
- 21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

S.B. NO.

APPROVED this

05

day of JUL og , 2019

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 30, 2019 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019.

President of the Senate

Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 522, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2019 Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019.

Acur

Scott K. Saiki Speaker House of Representatives

Brian L. Takeshita

Chief Clerk

House of Representatives